



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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January 31, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow
Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP)

Dear Director Snow,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing today to express our support for the Department of Water Resources' South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical water supply, water quality and environmental project designed to meet California's diverse water needs.

Currently, California is facing a critical challenge: We need a safe, reliable and high quality water supply to keep pace with our growing population and trillion-dollar economy. However, our arid state has limited water supplies that must be efficiently used with our existing infrastructure and resources. Two-thirds of California receives its water from the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Given the importance, we need a better plan to manage the delta's water delivery system, as well as the water itself. SDIP provides such a plan.

SDIP is the best option for California to advance economically. It will not add more costs to tax payers by constructing new infrastructure because funding for the program has already been secured through passage of voter approved bonds in 2000 (Proposition 13).

Water is the lifeblood of California-critical to our families, farms, and businesses. It is our responsibility to use this precious resource wisely through all possible best management practices, including water conservation, recycling and storage, to ensure California's water future. It is imperative that we have a more flexible water delivery system so that we can continue to accommodate growth in our population and economy while relying on existing water supplies.

Again, we strongly support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

Ronald Gastelum
Executive Vice President